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The Acadian House
Guilford, Connecticut
NEW HAVEN Co

HABS No. Conn. 15

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District Of Connecticut

Historic American Buildings Survey
Harold H. Davis, District Officer
29 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, Conn.

THE ACADIAN HOUSE

Guilford, New Haven County, Connecticut

Owners: Mrs. Kenneth S. Greene, Bellaire Avenue, Fairlawn, New Jersey

Date of erection: 1670

Architect: Not known

Builder: Joseph Clay

Present Condition: Fair; all of the interior trim has been removed.

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Rough field stone foundations laid in day
Chimney field stone laid in clay
Wood construction
Oak clapboards
Plain pitch roof, shingled

Other Existing Records: Colonial Dames Series: "Old Houses of
Connecticut"

List of Photographs:

1. Northwest Elevation
2. View from Southeast - 2 views
3. Living Room Fireplace (East Wall)

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THE ACADIAN HOUSE
GUILFORD, CONN.

In 1670, Joseph Clay built a house which had a central chimney, two stories in the front with a rear roof sloping to the ground. The main entrance was originally in the center of the front, but it is now changed.

It is hinted in the records that this was the house occupied by Acadian refugees. Sixteen out of two hundred of these refugees placed in Connecticut, were landed in Guilford in 1755 when a British ship with the Acadians on board proceeded down the Atlantic Coast through Long Island Sound, landing prisoners in various towns, which were ordered to take care of them.

The foundations of the house are laid up of rough field stone in clay; chimney is of stone also laid in clay. The building is of wood construction; attic of oak clapboards hand riven in lengths of four feet fastened with hand wrought nails.

The roof is of plain pitch construction, shingled; sidewalls of clapboards, directly on the studs, main entrance of single panel door and iron hardware. There are twenty-one windows of twenty panes of glass.

The corner framing of the interior is hewn and chamfered, with the posts flared at top of walls, cased in original parlor and hewn and chamfered as in the other rooms. All of the interior trim has been removed, but there was a wall cupboard in the fireplace wall of the parlor and living room and fireplaces in three rooms. The mantels in the living room were of wood, consisting of plain architrave with band mould including a brick oven which had a wooden door. The doors were designed in four panels of pine.

The roof framing of this house is very unusual. Instead of the usual system of rafters running up from plate to ridge, there are six large hewn oak beams 6" x 8" in section spaced an equal distance on centers. These beams are crossed by five horizontal purlins about 3" by 5 in section, also of oak. The roof sheathing consists of very broad oak boards 7/8" thick running up and down across these purlins. This sheathing is covered with shingles.

In the upright wall of the "cellar room", the space beneath the leanto roof against the ledge, adjoining the door which opens from the upper leanto chamber into this space, is a wooden trap door. The remains of an ancient rope shows that it was meant to be opened.

Few people know of the existence of this trap door; no one knows where it leads to or why it is there.

The house is located on Union Street, Guilford, Connecticut, and is now owned by Mrs. Kenneth E. Greene, Bellaire Avenue, Fairlawn, New Jersey.

Source of information: Colonial Dames Series: "Old Houses of Connecticut".

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